MR. KAYALAM PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): No.

MR. K. P. KRISHNA MENON (*Parur*): May I know whether this House has not recently passed a Bill reducing the rate of interest?

MR. KAYALAM PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Additional Head Sirkr Vakil*): Yes.

MR. K. P. KRISHNA MENON (*Parur*): Then why is it stated that the answer is 'no'?

MR. KAYALAM PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): The question asks whether Government have in contemplation any legislation to reduce interest to six per cent not only to ryots but also to other classes of people. The answer is that it is not in contemplation and it does not relate to all classes of people.

PRESIDENT: Another answer might be that this answer was prepared before the Bill was passed by this House.

Realisation of interest from Forest Contractors.

130. * MR. K. P. KRISHNA MENON (*Parur*): Will the Government be pleased to state whether the Conservator of Forests has issued orders to the Kottayam Divisional Forest Officer to recover interests at 12 per cent. from the defaulters in payment?

MR. K. MADHAVA KURUP (*Ag. Secretary to Government*): Yes.

MR. K P. KRISHNA MENON (*Parur*): May I know the reasons for raising the rate of interest from six to twelve per cent?

MR K. MADHAVA KURUP (*Ag. Secretary to Government*): It is intended, in the first place, to secure uniformity in the rate of interest to be recovered from defaulters in all the Forest Divisions; in the second place, to see that there is no default in payment.

Acting graduate teachers.

131. *MR. T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI (*Tiruvalla III*): Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) the number and the names of graduate teachers now in service, who have been acting as such for a total period of 7 years or more;

(*b*) the number and the names of graduate teachers now in service who have been acting as such for a total period of 5 years or more; and

(*c*) the reasons why those referred to in parts (*a*) and (*b*) have not been confirmed hitherto?

MR. C. V. CHANDRASEKHARAN (*Ag. Director of Public Instruction*):

(*a*) and (*b*) * Statements furnishing the information are laid on the table.

(*c*) Partly owing to the fact that the question of the waiting list was under consideration and partly owing to the orders of Government in connection with the standardisation of salaries.

Vide Appendix V.—pages 477 and 478.

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